

REMARKS

Claims 5-8, 14-17, 23-26, 32-35 and 41-44 are in the application.

Claims 1-4, 9-13, 18-22, 27-31, 36-40 and 45-66, drawn to a non-elected invention and withdrawn in the Examiner's Action from consideration, have been cancelled without prejudice to presentation in a divisional application.

Independent claims 5, 14, 23, 32, and 41 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim applicants' invention. In particular, each of these claims has been amended to point out that the roofing granules which are applied are in fact adhered to the bitumen-coated web. The amended claims are supported, for example, in the specification in the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10, the paragraph bridging pages 11 and 12, at page 23, lines 27-29, by each of the drawing figures, and by Examples 2-6, and present no new matter.

Claims 5-8, 14-17, 23-26, 32-35 and 41-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested as applicable to the amended claims.

The Examiner states that the claims have been rejected as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements, citing MPEP § 2172.01. In particular, the Examiner explains that the omitted element is the composition, adhesive or elements the hold the roofing granules in place.

In response to the rejection, each of the independent claims has been amended to clarify that it is the roofing granules adhere to the bituminous web, as detailed in the specification. As in conventional bituminous roofing materials, the granules are applied when

the web is soft and tacking at an elevated temperature, and granules become partially embedded in the bituminous web. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested for this reason.

An early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.